I find the Proposed Final Judgment in the Microsoft antitrust case to be a shameful sellout of all Americans. I can only hope that the reason for this is that the court is unable to understand what is being perpetrated.

For me, Microsoft's most objectionable anti-competetive practice is the "embrace, extend, eradicate" process used to subvert various public standards. Examples are the intentional incompatibilities inserted into the Kerberos security protocols, Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP), and the Hypertext Markup Language (HTML).

The HTML incompatibilities have been used to force competitive internet browser programs off the market. The court should be well aware of that.

The LDAP incompatibilities are being used to take control of internet directory services in general. Directories are specialized databases which are very useful for maintaining remotely accessible user information. The Microsoft version of LDAP is at the core of their Active Directory product and .NET services.

The more computers an organization runs, the more it has a need for a directory in order to maintain the computers and network efficiently. Most companies are forced to run Microsoft operating systems for word processing, spread sheets, or other applications. Microsoft operating systems, by speaking a special version of LDAP, force those organizations to use a Microsoft directory product (Active Directory) or a Microsoft directory service (Passport and .NET). Both of these products are designed to operate well only with other Microsoft products. The proof is that they could have used the standard LDAP protocol without proprietary extensions.

Kerberos is a transaction protocol for securing the data exchanged between computers. Controlling the security protocols and keeping them secret enables Microsoft to prevent any non Microsoft product from using the information. It was mathematically proven, back in the 1970s, that secret protocols do not lead to greater security. Subverting Kerberos must therefor support a business goal.

The message is that by controlling the protocols for

exchanging data, Microsoft controls who and what may access that data. That is a major threat when coming from a monopolist.

Sincerly

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